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24

7 October 1963

VIETNAMESE SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT  
(Information as of 1100 EDT)

1. Madame Nhu is expected to arrive at Idlewild International Airport at 1800 today. (PAA Flight 119.)

2. Her initial major exposure on US information media took place yesterday on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers," an interview taped in Paris Friday. CBS announced almost immediately that it had cancelled her scheduled appearance on "Face the Nation" next Sunday because she has already been assured "saturation coverage." CBS will replace her with her father, Tran Van Chuong, who yesterday, in a press interview, a New York TV show with Senator Keating, and on the WTOP-TV program "Cityside," assailed Madame Nhu as a "power-mad" propagandist and "headline catcher."

3. In the ABC interview, Madame Nhu said Buddhist demonstrators were "hooligans dressed in saffron robes." (Taping of the interview preceded the latest suicide in Saigon, and the accompanying beatings of three US newsmen.) She accused US reporters in Saigon of false reporting because "they just dislike the Vietnamese Government, and they want to topple it."

In a press conference Thursday, Mme. Nhu had backed off somewhat from her earlier statements about "little soldiers of fortune," remarking with what correspondents called an obvious effort to charm and dazzle that it would be "treason" to criticize US aid. In the television interview, however, she returned to the charge with the comment that "the junior officials are put there to spy on their own bosses." She replied to a question that she felt there was "confusion" rather than any split between US military and diplomatic officials in South Vietnam, and added:

"I think that the main difficulty is that Americans in Vietnam do not take their role of ally seriously enough.... They do not give us the impression that they are actually fighting with us.... We have the impression that they feel as though they are at a show watching us--just as spectators."

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If she meets President Kennedy during her US visit, she said, "I think I shall be satisfied to say to him 'bon jour.'"

4. Madame Nhu's US schedule calls for about 10 television programs, including NBC's "Meet the Press" next Sunday; half a dozen other major press and public appearances; two private press interviews; and 11 engagements at universities throughout the country. Her first known public appearance appears to be a Wednesday luncheon at the Overseas Press Club in New York. She is expected in Washington either next Tuesday night or Wednesday morning for a 16 October lunch at the Women's Press Club. A National Press Club luncheon is set for 18 or 19 October.

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